

Minutes



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
8:30 a.m.



PRESENT: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Penny Delaney Cothran John Epting, Gretchen Lambert, Zach Laprise, Bob Petrulis, Jane Przbysz, Tameria Warren, Marty White, Taylor Wright, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

Guests: Ben Kessler, Stacy Washington, ORS/State Energy Office; USC students Madison Buckles, Jack Bingham.

Dr. Z. called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

Because technical issues made it difficult to open the January minutes included with the meeting notice, Bob Petrulis made a motion that approval be deferred until the March meeting; Penny Delay Cothran seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Mary Pat will re-send the minutes today in a PDF so everyone should be able to open them.

Dr. Z. announced that there were no speakers at today's meeting, but instead the group would focus on progress reports.

SC Energy Action meeting in conjunction with SC Energy Office: Bob Petrulis, Tameria Warren

- Bob and Tameria have meet with the State Energy Office several times about this event.
- Tentatively scheduled for early evening on March 18.
- Will highlight organizations who help with energy issues, including Dominion and state community action teams for speakers.
- Topics will include weatherization and bill assistance programs, as well as a five minute CPAC "dog and pony show." (Bob noted that this also generated an idea to develop a comprehensive communications strategy to raise the community-wide visibility of CPAC.)
- March should be the tail end of high winter bills, good time for residents to start preparing for warmer spring and summer temps.

- If participation and interest is strong, this could lead to additional workshops, including a mock home audit.
- Looking for the best platform to use, as well as partners to help promote the event.

Energy Labeling Pilot with SC Energy Office: Gretchen Lambert

- Proposed focus on residential, though commercial buildings generate a high load.
- Gretchen spoke with Gloria Saeed with Community Development for feedback on the possible program. Gloria thought it was an intriguing idea, but had some concerns that if it were mandatory, that costs may be passed on to buyers, many of whom are already non-traditional buyers.
- Gretchen also spoke with a development zone about it, who said they would be happy to work with the group to feel the program out and suggested the use of some of their properties as pilot projects.
- Gretchen also received input from the owner of a large rental company, who said that she liked the idea of the program, but that it is quite difficult to get power bill information unless the renters provide it directly.
- There was some discussion about who would enforce the proposal. Robert explained that Legal would be the one to do that vetting and determine who would enforce. Staff can get the Legal Review process started when the working group provides a simple outline(s) of what they're trying to do, even if there are multiple options. Legal will contact staff with questions and/or requests for additional information.
- Robert also added that staff will have to vet the project thoroughly and examine how it would impact all citizens of the City of Columbia.

SC Green Bank Update: Stacy Washington, State Energy Office

- One of the recommendations from the recently published SC Energy Efficiency Roadmap was to "Assess the feasibility, costs, and benefits of establishing a South Carolina Green Bank."
- One of the first steps in this process will be to conduct an opportunity assessment similar to what NC did last year.
- State Energy Office is currently seeking funding for the assessment and plan to meet with interested stakeholders soon.

Dominion Renewal Energy Offering update: Penny Delaney Cothran

- Penny explained that Dominion has a supply agreement one the Public Service Commission (PSC) dockets to provide third party renewable power from third party vendors, capped at 135 megawatts.

- This would help the City better work toward the Ready for 100 initiative, but there is no “carve out” for municipalities. CPAC is exploring the option of obtaining a carve out for the City and University. Timing is of the essence as it will likely be considered in the next six months.
- Dr. Z recently met with the City of Greenville, who reached such an agreement with Duke Power by working through the Public Service Commission.
- Dr. Z. is including this information in the presentation she is making to today’s City Council Environment and Infrastructure Committee meeting.
- Several questions were asked, including:
 - Q. Would the “green energy” be more expensive? A. Unsure, but possible.
 - Q. Where would the energy be generated? A. Duke did theirs via a solar installation in Charlotte. Local in the Carolinas would be preferred, and the possibility of developing on the Intertape Polymer brownfield was mentioned from a previous discussion.
 - Q. What is the footprint of a 25 mw solar installation A. Range of four to ten acres per MW.

In staff updates, Mary Pat said she was busy working on the CPAC updates, such as internal actions on by-laws, E&I Committee and other CPAC projects.

Samantha stated that recycling remains expensive, but the City is getting through. She said that metals are still holding value and that there is a cardboard shortage due to people not recycling enough of their boxes.

Dr. Z. opened the floor for new business. Hearing none, she moved to old business where she announced that CPAC officer elections would be held once the new by-laws were adopted, probably in March.

Having no further new or old business, attendees were reminded that of the working meeting on February 16 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Around 9:40 a.m., Bob moved that the meeting be adjourned; Gretchen seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.